United Nations A/66/163

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 July 2011
English
Original: French

Sixty-sixth session
Item 99 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the period under review, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa held two meetings. The thirty-first and thirty-second ministerial meetings were held, respectively, in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010 and in Sao Tome from 12 to 16 March 2011. At these two meetings, the Committee continued its tradition of reviewing the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa. That led it to conclude that, despite the significant progress achieved in the consolidation of democratic processes and the normal functioning of institutions, there were still major concerns about the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in some member States.

The members of the Standing Advisory Committee also signed the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, known as the Kinshasa Convention. In that connection, the member States committed themselves to taking the necessary measures to ratify the Convention and bring it into force as soon as possible. The members of the Committee also formally adopted the Implementation Plan for the Convention, which describes the institutional, regulatory and operational measures to be taken by member States at the national level and by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) at the subregional level.

* A/66/150.

11-42365 (E) 100811 110811

Please recycle

In addition, the Standing Advisory Committee reviewed the recurrent issues traditionally considered at its ministerial meetings, including, inter alia, the progress made by member States in the implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities for combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, as well as the implementation of the Libreville Declaration, which stresses the need for all member States to make voluntary financial contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund. The Committee also once again considered the issue of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, and the implementation in Central Africa of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women, peace and security, and General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

New topics consistent with the latest developments in the subregion were also addressed by the Standing Advisory Committee during the period under review. For the first time, the member States had a preliminary exchange of views on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in Central Africa. In that connection, the Committee requested the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) to present it with an information paper listing the main initiatives and relevant documents relating to that issue. The Committee also began new discussions on the impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa, on the need to protect widows and their children, and on the means to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in the subregion.

Lastly, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is to be held in 2012, the members of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty. This expresses the need for member States to take a coordinated and harmonized approach, highlighting the concerns specific to Central Africa in the negotiations and when the future Treaty is concluded and implemented.

In conclusion, the Standing Advisory Committee continued to serve as a framework for action and a forum for dialogue and confidence-building among its 11 member States during the period under review.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Activities of the Standing Advisory Committee	4
	A. Signature of the Kinshasa Convention and adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Convention	5
	B. Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa	6
	C. Implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities	6
	D. Information from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs	7
	E. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa	8
	F. Illegal exploitation of natural resources in Central Africa	9
	G. Maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea	9
	H. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) and General Assembly resolution 65/69	10
	I. Combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in Central Africa	10
	J. Impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa	11
	K. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/189 entitled "International Widows' Day"	11
	L. Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty	11
	M. Implementation of the Libreville Declaration	12
III.	Administrative and financial matters	12
IV.	Conclusions and observations	12
Annex		
	Financial situation of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa for 2010	14

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/84, the General Assembly reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance that States members of the Standing Advisory Committee needed for the continuation of their efforts and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The present report is submitted in response to that request. It covers the activities undertaken by the Standing Advisory Committee from July 2010 to June 2011.

II. Activities of the Standing Advisory Committee

4. The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee have consisted essentially of two ministerial-level meetings: the thirty-first meeting, held in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010, and the thirty-second meeting, held in Sao Tome from 12 to 16 March 2011. The 11 States members of the Committee — Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe — took part in the work of the two meetings.

5. Representatives from the African Union, ECCAS, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region also participated in the thirty-first and thirty-second ministerial meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee.

6. The meetings were, furthermore, attended by representatives from the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Development Programme.

7. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) served as the Committee secretariat for the two meetings.

8. During the meetings, the Standing Advisory Committee addressed both recurrent and new issues, in particular:

(a) The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, known as the Kinshasa Convention, and the Implementation Plan for the Convention;

(b) Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa;

(c) Implementation of the 2003 Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities with regard to small arms and light weapons;

(d) The latest developments concerning disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control;

(e) The geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa;

(f) The illegal exploitation of natural resources in Central Africa;

(g) Maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea;

(h) The implementation in Central Africa of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), as well as General Assembly resolution 65/69 on the link between women, peace, security, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control;

(i) Combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in Central Africa;

(j) The impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa;

(k) The implementation of resolution 65/189 entitled "International Widows' Day" concerning the protection of widows and orphans, adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2010;

(l) The involvement of Central Africa in the process of adopting an arms trade treaty;

(m) The implementation of the Libreville Declaration on the funding of the Committee's activities.

A. Signature of the Kinshasa Convention and the adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Convention

9. On 19 November 2010, in Brazzaville, the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention) was opened for signature. The Convention had been adopted on 30 April 2010 at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee. On 30 June 2011, of the 11 States members of the Committee, 9 had signed the Convention.

10. The States committed to taking the necessary measures to ratify the Kinshasa Convention to achieve its swift entry into force, preferably before the twentieth anniversary of the Standing Advisory Committee in July 2012.

11. The States also formally adopted the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention. The Implementation Plan was drafted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), in accordance with the mandate assigned to it at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee. The draft implementation plan prepared by UNREC served as the basis for an exchange of views by States. States further committed to implementing the critical measures as quickly as possible.

12. The Secretary-General welcomes the adoption of the Convention and encourages all the States members of the Committee to sign and ratify it at the earliest possible date. The effective implementation of the Convention will help to reduce armed violence and will relieve human suffering caused by illicit trade and trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa.

13. UNREC stands ready to assist States parties in implementing the Convention. Further to the request by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), UNREC is developing a technical and institutional support plan for the secretariat of ECCAS.

B. Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa

14. The Standing Advisory Committee took note with interest of the steps taken by the secretariat of ECCAS to incorporate the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, adopted on 8 May 2009, as an internal document, through a meeting of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of the Code of Conduct as a tool for consolidating democratic governance of the security sector, improving civilian-military relationships and developing the professionalism of the defence and security forces in Central Africa.

15. The Standing Advisory Committee encouraged the member States to begin using the Code of Conduct at the earliest possible date and to promote it among their defence and security institutions. UNREC, in collaboration with the secretariat of ECCAS, is available to assist member States in disseminating and using the Code of Conduct in training activities for the defence and security forces of the subregion.

C. Implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities

16. Adopted in 2003, the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities is the subregional framework of reference for implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

17. In accordance with the established practice of the Standing Advisory Committee, the States reviewed the measures taken internally to implement the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities.

18. During the exchange of views, it became apparent that some member States had not yet adopted certain required institutional measures, including with regard to the establishment and operationalization of national commissions and national focal points on the control of small arms and light weapons. Nevertheless, the Committee concluded that relevant legal measures to regulate firearms existed in most member States, even though it was necessary to revise certain laws.

19. In addition, the Committee noted progress with regard to many operational activities taking place in member States, especially capacity-building seminars for armed and security forces on the control of small arms and light weapons,

awareness-raising campaigns for civilians on the dangers posed by small arms and light weapons, and programmes for the collection and destruction of illicit, obsolete or surplus weapons stockpiles.

D. Information from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

20. At the request of the Standing Advisory Committee, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to bring to the attention of member States the latest developments in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In that context, the Office informed the Committee of the holding in New York, on 24 September 2010, of a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament, in which one of its member States, Cameroon, had participated.

21. With regard to the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the Standing Advisory Committee was informed that the first Conference of the Parties had been held in Addis Ababa on 4 November 2010, with a view to establishing the African Commission on Nuclear Energy. Given its technical expertise, UNREC has provided political and technical support to the African Union.

22. With regard to conventional weapons, several States members of the Committee attended an open-ended meeting of government experts on the marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms held in New York from 9 to 13 May 2011. In addition, the States members of the Committee took note of the Organization's development, as part of the programme UN Safer*G*uard, of guidelines for securing ammunition stockpiles.

23. With regard to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Office informed the Committee of the holding, in Vientiane, of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, which had resulted in the adoption of the Vientiane Declaration and the Vientiane Action Plan for the effective and timely implementation of the Convention. The Committee welcomed the fact that at the Vientiane meeting, the States Parties had planned an informal intersessional meeting to discuss substantive issues. That intersessional meeting, held in Geneva from 27 to 30 June 2011, had served to prepare for a second meeting of States Parties, to be held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 12 to 16 September 2011.

24. The Standing Advisory Committee also took note with interest of the principal activities carried out by UNREC in support of or in collaboration with the African Union, the regional economic communities and African States. In that regard, the Committee welcomed the actions already taken by the African Union-Regions Small Arms Steering Committee, in which UNREC participates as a representative of the United Nations. The Committee urged UNREC to continue providing support to African States in their efforts to prevent and reduce armed violence and to regulate arms brokering in Africa.

25. The Standing Advisory Committee also urged UNREC to continue providing assistance to African States in harmonizing their national legislation on small arms and light weapons, in developing training modules for security forces on the topic of arms control, and in designing and developing trade management software and

databases on national laws and regulations concerning small arms and light weapons.

E. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

26. The Standing Advisory Committee continued its practice of reviewing the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, as well as the cooperation between some of its member States. Despite significant progress achieved in the consolidation of democratic processes and the normal functioning of institutions, certain member States in the subregion still face significant challenges with regard to security, human rights and humanitarian issues.

27. Politically, the period under review was marked by the holding of various elections in the subregion. With regard to the security situation, while enjoying the relative calm that now prevails in certain countries affected by conflict, Central Africa has also faced significant threats to peace and security. The resurgence of rampant banditry and roadblockers, the acts of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the ongoing armed violence of illegal armed groups are cause for serious concern. States members of the Standing Advisory Committee have undertaken substantial efforts with regard to governance, human rights and humanitarian issues. Relevant legal and institutional instruments governing these matters continue to be adopted and implemented in each country. The situation nevertheless remains worrisome in certain States of the subregion.

28. With regard to inter-State cooperation, joint border security patrols have been established by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours, including the Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

29. On the issue of refugees, the Standing Advisory Committee welcomed the continued collaboration between the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to stabilize the situation in the north of the Republic of the Congo. This region is home to many refugees and displaced persons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, tripartite meetings between the Congo, Gabon and UNHCR were held in 2010. Similar meetings were held between Angola, the Congo and UNHCR. These three partners were to attend a second tripartite meeting in Pointe-Noire (Congo), to assess the implementation of the recommendations issued at the previous tripartite meeting, held in Cabinda (Republic of the Congo) on 17 and 18 March 2009, regarding the Angolan refugees living in the Congo.

30. Lastly, with regard to the issue of territorial and border disputes, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea have expressed a desire to resolve their dispute concerning the Island of Mbanié through negotiations. Following bilateral negotiations and mediation by Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Nicolas Michel, the parties reaffirmed their commitment to refer their dispute to the International Court of Justice.

F. Illegal exploitation of natural resources in Central Africa

31. The States members of the Standing Advisory Committee had a preliminary exchange of views on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the subregion, a multidimensional and complex issue that has a real impact on peace and security.

32. The Standing Advisory Committee decided to remain seized of the matter at its next ministerial meeting. It requested UNREC to submit, at the thirty-third ministerial meeting, an information paper listing the legal and political documents and initiatives adopted in Africa and elsewhere to combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including the final declaration of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region held on 15 December 2010 in Lusaka.

G. Maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

33. The Standing Advisory Committee reiterated its concern at the resurgence of acts of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and strongly condemned the attacks against some of its States members, in particular the recent attacks against Cameroon. The Committee followed closely the statements of Angola, Cameroon, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and the secretariat of ECCAS concerning the continued acts of maritime piracy, which represented a challenge to the security and economy of Central Africa.

34. In that regard, the Standing Advisory Committee urged ECCAS to accelerate implementation of its strategy to combat maritime piracy in Central Africa. It also took note of the meeting of the joint chiefs of staff of the countries of zone D of the Gulf of Guinea (Cameroon, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe) held in Pointe-Noire from 11 to 13 February 2011, as well as the adoption of the maritime security plan SECMAR II. The Committee welcomed the other institutional and operational measures taken individually and collectively by States, including the operation of joint patrols by some countries since the adoption of the first maritime security plan (SECMAR I) under the auspices of ECCAS. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the secretariat of ECCAS should as soon as possible put into operation the Centre régional de sécurisation maritime de l'Afrique centrale, in accordance with the decision taken by the fourteenth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS held in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 October 2009.

35. The Standing Advisory Committee again recommended that ECCAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission should organize an international maritime conference bringing together all States members of the Committee, donors and other international stakeholders. The Committee welcomed Cameroon's offer to host the conference.

H. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) and General Assembly resolution 65/69

36. In accordance with the decision taken at the twenty-ninth ministerial meeting, every ministerial meeting now includes an agenda item on the implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning women, peace and security. The Standing Advisory Committee emphasized that those resolutions were essential tools for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and for peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Central Africa.

37. The Standing Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts by member States to implement those resolutions, including through the adoption of specific national action plans. In that connection, the Committee noted with interest the statements made by Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe concerning the incorporation of the gender dimension and involvement of women in the promotion of security, peace and disarmament.

I. Combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in Central Africa

38. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, who had been invited for the first time to attend a meeting of the Committee, delivered a statement to member States regarding the situation in Central Africa.

39. The Standing Advisory Committee strongly condemned trafficking in persons in all its forms, wherever it was practised, and welcomed the initiatives of the Special Rapporteur to combat the phenomenon. The Committee encouraged member States to implement the multilateral regional cooperation agreement to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in West and Central Africa, which was concluded in 2006 between ECCAS and the Economic Community of West African States.

40. The Standing Advisory Committee welcomed the achievements of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, in particular in the area of tracking population movements and their impact on peace and security in Central Africa.

41. The Standing Advisory Committee acknowledged that population movements posed challenges to human security and respect for human rights in the subregion. However, member States were also aware that migrations represented an opportunity for improved political and economic integration in Central Africa.

42. The Standing Advisory Committee encouraged member States to take on board the results of the subregional dialogue on migration and human rights hosted by the Centre in Yaoundé from 6 to 8 December 2010. The issues in question included, inter alia, the need to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the harmonization of domestic legislation with international human rights norms, particularly with regard to migration. In addition, recommendations had been made

concerning the adoption and implementation of national migration management policies with a human rights-based approach; capacity-building for those involved in population movement and human rights management; and the establishment of multisectoral structures with effective civil society participation, for cooperation on migration and human rights.

J. Impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa

43. At the initiative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Standing Advisory Committee examined for the first time the topic of climate change and its impact on peace and security in Central Africa. The Committee heard with interest the briefings of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe. States exchanged views on the question, which represented a real threat to populations and to the institutional stability of Central Africa.

44. The Standing Advisory Committee expressed its concern at the continued deterioration of the Congo Basin, which was a factor of instability and a genuine threat. It appealed to the international community to support environmental preservation in the Congo Basin. The Committee welcomed the organization of the first Summit of the three tropical forest basins,[1] which would be held in June 2011 in Brazzaville.

K. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/189 entitled "International Widows' Day"

45. Following a statement delivered by the delegation of Gabon, the Standing Advisory Committee decided that upcoming ministerial meetings should include on their agenda the consideration of General Assembly resolution 65/189, adopted on the initiative of Gabon on 2 December 2010 and entitled "International Widows' Day", on the need to protect widows and their children.

L. Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty

46. The Standing Advisory Committee heard a statement made by the Secretary of the Committee regarding the content of the Arms Trade Treaty and, in particular, the outcome of discussions on its scope, criteria and parameters, which had taken place at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2012 Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in February and March 2011.

47. In order to underscore member States' support for the negotiation of an Arms Trade Treaty, the Standing Advisory Committee decided to adopt a common position, the Sao Tome Declaration (see A/66/172-S/2011/225, annex I). The Declaration was prepared with the support of UNREC in its capacity as secretariat of the Committee. The Committee requested that UNREC should follow up implementation of the Declaration.

48. Through its Common Position, Central Africa aims to ensure that the specificities of the region are reflected in the negotiations and the implementation of

[1] The tropical forest basins of the Amazon, Congo and Borneo-Mekong regions.

the resulting treaty. Along with the Kinshasa Convention, the Declaration shows that Central African States are committed to combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

M. Implementation of the Libreville Declaration

49. The Standing Advisory Committee took note of the measures taken by member States to deliver their financial contributions for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration. It thanked those member States that had already delivered their contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund.

50. The Standing Advisory Committee encouraged all member States to strive to make regular contributions to the Trust Fund in accordance with their commitments. It also called on other United Nations Member States and donors to make financial contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund.

III. Administrative and financial matters

51. At the end of 2010, the Committee's Trust Fund had a balance of $29,305. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011, contributions totalling $46,234 were received.

52. The Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to Member States of the United Nations, in particular States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund in order to enable the Standing Advisory Committee to effectively fulfil its mission of assisting the States of the subregion.

IV. Conclusions and observations

53. During the period under review, the Standing Advisory Committee considered such regular agenda items as a review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, the status of inter-State cooperation and the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation programmes, in particular with respect to small arms and light weapons. It also examined the new topics of peace and stability in Central Africa.

54. The Secretary-General welcomes the fact that the discussions of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee have resulted in recommendations and the adoption of measures whose effective implementation would contribute to the consolidation of peace and security in the region. One major step forward is the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention). The Secretary-General encourages States members of the Committee to promptly ratify the Convention. Its entry intro force would help reduce the proliferation of weapons and armed violence in the subregion. The Implementation Plan is an essential framework setting forth the institutional, normative and operational measures to be taken at the national and subregional levels.

55. New sources of insecurity with alarming proportions have led the Standing Advisory Committee to address new questions such as the illegal exploitation of natural resources; women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; the protection of widows and their children; combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and the impact of climate change on peace and security in Central Africa. Faced with this new situation, stakeholders need to develop new responses.

56. In view of the complex nature of the threats to peace and security in Central Africa, the Secretary-General established the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) in Libreville in January 2011 and appointed Mr. Abou Moussa as his Special Representative in the subregion. Following the establishment of the new regional office, the Secretary-General decided to transfer responsibility for acting as secretariat of the Standing Advisory Committee to the Department of Political Affairs. UNOCA will therefore organize the Committee's ministerial meetings as of the thirty-third ministerial meeting to be held in the Central African Republic in September 2011.

57. The Office of Disarmament Affairs will continue to provide substantive input and support the work of the Standing Advisory Committee on issues specifically related to disarmament and arms limitation. The Secretary-General has no doubt that the Committee will continue to act as an important confidence-building forum in the Central African subregion.

Annex

Financial situation of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa for 2010

	(United States dollars)
Opening balance (31 December 2009)	9 553
Income received (1 January-31 December 2010)	
Voluntary contributions	19 299
Funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	0
Interest income	453
Miscellaneous and other income	0
Subtotal	**19 752**
Expenditure (1 January-31 December 2010)	0
Programme support costs	0
Subtotal	**0**
Prior-period adjustments	0
Reserves and closing balance (31 December 2010)	**29 305**

Note: This information is based on income and expenditure for 2010. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011, contributions totalling $46,234 were received from Angola ($10,000), the Congo ($10,961) and Sao Tome and Principe ($25,273).